

COMMENDING THE TOURETTE
SYNDROME ASSOCIATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the national Tourette Syndrome Association for their hard work to have Tourette Syndrome listed as a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

On August 4, 2006 Margaret Spellings, the Secretary of the Department of Education, announced the final regulations enforcing Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act which now lists Tourette Syndrome in the category of "Other Health Impaired." This new classification means that students with Tourette Syndrome will no longer find themselves in limbo—knowing that they are legally entitled to receive the necessary educational accommodations but unable to point to specific language in the law that would protect their rights.

For years, many students with Tourette Syndrome who sought accommodations were labeled as having behavioral or emotional problems and not a neurological disorder. This incorrect designation sometimes placed students with Tourette Syndrome into classrooms with behaviorally or emotionally disturbed children. By including Tourette Syndrome in the law, the Department of Education is sending a clear message to schools across the country that Tourette Syndrome is a neurological disorder. The category is no longer a subject of debate and one more hurdle has been cleared for students with Tourette Syndrome.

The Tourette Syndrome Association and its members have been steadfast in working with Members of Congress and officials from the U.S. Department of Education for this designation in "Other Health Impaired." Over the years, they have held hundreds of meetings with many of my colleagues in this body and have sent us thousands of letters explaining the necessity and value of having Tourette Syndrome listed in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. This victory for the Tourette Syndrome Association and its members has been long overdue.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would personally like to thank my friend Jeremy Scott, the Tourette Syndrome Association's Director of Public Policy, for his dedication and leadership to ensuring that Tourette Syndrome be added to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. This accomplishment will positively impact the educational experiences of hundreds of thousands of children with Tourette Syndrome.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on Tuesday, September 12, 2006, due to the primary election in my Congressional District. Had I been present, I would have voted: "yea", to H.R. 5428—Joshua A. Terando Princeton Post Office Building Designation Act and "yea", to H. Res. 175—Recognizing the

importance of establishing a national memorial at the World Trade Center site to commemorate and mourn the events of February 26, 1993, and September 11, 2001.

I was also absent on Wednesday, September 13, 2006, due to unavoidable circumstances in my congressional district. Had I been present, I would have voted: "no", on H. Res. 996—Ordering the Previous Question; "no", to H.R. 4893—to amend section 20 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act to restrict off-reservation gaming and "yea", to H. Res. 994—expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on the fifth anniversary of the terrorist attacks launched against the United States on September 11, 2001.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on H.J. Res. 88, H.R. 2808, H. Res. 605, H. Res. 875 and H. Res. 981. Had I been present, I would have voted for each of these measures.

I also missed votes on H.R. 503 and the Edwards motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 5122. Had I been present, I would have voted against these measures.

In addition, there was a vote on a motion to close portions of the defense authorization conference to the press and public when matters of national security are under consideration. Had I been present, I would have voted for this.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 2864, WATER RESOURCES DE-
VELOPMENT ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this motion, offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MELANCON), to instruct the House conferees to support the maximum level of hurricane and storm damage protection for the communities of coastal Louisiana and Mississippi.

Two weeks ago, this nation honored the 1 year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, and the devastating impact this storm had on the Gulf Coast communities. Over the past year, we have had the ability to reflect on the lives and livelihoods that were forever changed by Hurricane Katrina, as well as on efforts to restore some sense of normalcy to the families and communities impacted by the storm. Few national efforts have been more important than those to rebuild the City of New Orleans, and the surrounding communities of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Not surprisingly, in the days immediately following Katrina's devastation, the Federal government spoke with one voice to support the rebuilding of Gulf Coast communities.

President Bush assured the residents of New Orleans and the outlying parishes, includ-

ing St. Bernard and Plaquemine parishes, that "people are paying attention to them," and it was the Federal government's duty to "help the good folks of this part of the world to get back on their feet."

A few days later, the President stood in Jackson Square, New Orleans, and made a commitment to rebuild Gulf Coast communities "better and stronger than before the storm."

Recognizing the importance of flood protection of the Gulf Coast communities, the President assured its citizens that the "Corps of Engineers will work at [the side of state and local officials] to make the flood protection system stronger than it has ever been before."

Unfortunately, in the time that has elapsed since the President proclaimed these words from the heart of New Orleans, the administration's commitment to the Gulf Coast communities has wavered, and his pledge to rebuild all of the affected communities "better and stronger than before the storm" has fallen by the wayside—promises that have fallen victim to politics, and a renewed interest in fiscal conservatism.

While the administration may waiver in its commitment to help the families affected by Hurricane Katrina, I support this motion to instruct the conferees to renew Congressional commitment to adequately protect the entire Gulf Coast region.

Mr. Speaker, I find it ironic that this administration, which has gone on the offensive criticizing any individual who would question U.S. policy in Iraq as "cutting and running" would feel comfortable walking away from the plight of its own citizenry in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

On Monday night, marking the fifth anniversary of the September 11th attacks, President Bush, speaking of Iraq, proclaimed to the American people that "We would not leave until the work is done." However, it would appear that the message to the residents of in many Gulf coast communities is that the U.S. government will leave before the work has even commenced—and you may be on your own in rebuilding your lives.

That is unconscionable.

Mr. Speaker, one of the lessons learned from experiences of Hurricane Katrina is the importance of well designed, and properly maintained flood control structures in protecting lives and livelihoods in the coastal areas of Louisiana and Mississippi. These structures literally define the areas considered safe for homes and businesses to locate, and without which, communities, such as the City of New Orleans, could not exist.

While Hurricane Katrina did not destroy all of the more than 350 miles of flood control structures protecting southeast Louisiana, it did expose the weaknesses in a system vital to the more than one million residents of the region. Katrina was also a stark reminder of the importance of proper planning, construction, and maintenance of flood protection projects, because these projects literally protect the lives of families living behind these structures.

Mr. Speaker, this motion to instruct the conferees on H.R. 2864, the Water Resources Development Act of 2005, is important for two reasons.

First, it renews the commitment of Congress to provide the maximum level of flood protection for areas impacted by Hurricane Katrina to help its citizens restore their lives and livelihoods. Without adequate flood protection,

many citizens of the Gulf Coast simply cannot start the process of trying to rebuild their lives, because, without protection against flood and storm surge, they may be unable to obtain affordable flood insurance, mortgages, or other financial arrangements necessary to begin the process of rebuilding.

This fact is especially true for the residents of St. Bernard Parish, which I inspected on foot this past April, and Lower Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana—the communities that bore the initial force of Hurricane Katrina. In Plaquemines Parish, close to one-half of all residents experienced some flooding or structural damage to their homes, and in St. Bernard Parish and the Lower 9th Ward, this number is close to 100 percent of homes.

It is inconceivable that this administration would walk away from communities that experienced such a traumatic devastation, especially after reassuring citizens that the government would help rebuild their communities “better and stronger than before the storm.” We, in Congress, need to stand with one voice in support of rebuilding all of the communities affected by this storm.

The second reason for supporting this motion is that it draws attention to the fact that hurricanes are more than just high wind events, but also carry the threat of massive storm surges. It is these “walls of water” that caused the greatest extent of the damage from Hurricane Katrina.

Those most affected by the hurricane are well aware of the impact of storm surges, and the headaches that have ensued in the aftermath trying to rebuild these communities. I have heard numerous stories of the difficulty in convincing insurance companies that hurricane damage can take the form both of wind damage and flooding damage. Any Member of Congress that has visited this region has heard that insurance companies are balking at settling claims for water damage, arguing that these damages are not covered by storm policies, because they are not wind damage.

However, a storm surge is the direct result of wind-driven water. As Hurricane Katrina moved into the Gulf of Mexico, it pushed water in front of the storm, and caused the sea to rise by as much as 25 feet in areas of coastal Mississippi. But for the hurricane, there would have been no storm surge.

As we move forward with efforts to protect communities along the Gulf Coast, we must be mindful of the impact both from a hurricane's winds, but also of the impact that such massive storms can cause from wind-driven waters. In authorizing new or restored flood protection projects to protect the communities of the Gulf region, the Corps must ensure that projects are designed and constructed to protect against both the dangers of hurricane force winds, but also the threat of massive storm-driven waters resulting from these storms.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this motion to instruct, and to renew the Congressional commitment to restore the lives and livelihoods of all residents impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

**GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATION
FOR THE GEORGE P. PITKIN, MD
EMERGENCY CARE CENTER AT
HOLY NAME HOSPITAL IN TEA-
NECK, NEW JERSEY**

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the groundbreaking for the new George P. Pitkin, MD Emergency Care Center at Holy Name Hospital in Teaneck, New Jersey.

Holy Name Hospital was founded in 1925 by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace. To assist the sick and indigent of Bergen County, New Jersey, Dr. George Pitkin and Dr. Frank McCormack worked with Mother General Agatha Brown of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace to purchase a suitable hospital site to provide administrative and nursing care. In 1925, Holy Name Hospital opened with 115 beds.

Today, Dr. George Pitkin's far-reaching vision is realized in an institution known locally, statewide and nationally for health care excellence, dedicated and skilled nursing care, and cutting-edge technological advances. Each year more than 17,000 inpatients, 44,000 Emergency Department patients, and 18,000 outpatients receive state-of-the-art diagnostic, treatment, and health management services in cancer care, cardiovascular services, dialysis treatment, women's health care and neurology services.

The new George P. Pitkin, MD Emergency Care Center at Holy Name Hospital will feature 21,000 square feet of space, 41 patient treatment rooms, patient- and family-friendly facilities, leading-edge trauma procedure rooms, contiguous radiology and laboratory services.

My congratulations and very best wishes to the President and CEO, Michael Maron, and Board of Directors at Holy Name Hospital, and to all of their health care professionals and associates as the outstanding new George P. Pitkin, MD Emergency Care Center is dedicated.

**HONORING GOVERNOR ANN
RICHARDS**

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with a deep sense of loss that I rise today in tribute to Governor Ann Richards of Texas whose death leaves a void in the national scene and in the lives of all of us who knew and admired her.

Governor Richards was a woman of tremendous achievement and her professional accomplishments are well-documented: teacher, state treasurer, governor, chair of a national political convention. She was also a loving mother, a loyal friend, and a strong woman who bravely faced all adversaries, both political and personal. Whether confronting the demons of illness or the disappointment of political defeat, she emerged from each struggle

wiser, wittier, and ever more welcome on the public stage.

For me, and many women in and out of politics, Ann Richards was a role model and a mentor. She showed us by example that a woman could succeed in what appeared to be a man's world. For those of us who share her commitment to education, equal opportunity, social justice and the rule of law, she carved a path for us to follow . . . and left big shoes (and boots) for us to fill.

When I was first running for Congress in 1998, and then during my re-election campaign in 2000, Governor Richards made time in her schedule to come to Madison, Wisconsin on my behalf. Her support was invaluable. In her inimitable Texas twang, she knew how to rally a crowd, work a room, and deliver a message better than any politician, male or female, I've ever seen. To a young woman coming into the national political arena, her wisdom and warmth were a priceless gift for which I will always be grateful.

I shall miss her incredibly and emphatically. Today, I remember Ann Richards in my heart and in these words. But I know she would prefer all of us to remember her in future deeds . . . deeds that push and prod us to be better people and better citizens.

I send heartfelt condolences to Governor Richards' family and sincere thanks for sharing this remarkable woman with us.

**TRIBUTE TO MR. JOSE “PEPE” L.
GONZALEZ**

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jose “Pepe” L. Gonzalez who recently passed away on September 8, 2006, at 82 years of age. He will be forever remembered for his passion for higher education for our youth and his commitment to public service.

Mr. Gonzalez was born in the City of Laredo on June 16, 1924 and left the city to serve in World War II with the U.S. Army Air Force in the Aleutian Islands, and later served with the United States Naval Reserve as a Lieutenant in Laredo. He then attended the University of Notre Dame and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering in 1950, followed by a Master of Public Health degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1964.

Thus began his legacy of providing health care services to the citizens of Laredo by developing the Laredo-Webb County Health Department, often cited for its achievements in disease control, health promotion and chronic disease prevention, and innovative programs in environmental health. He will be forever remembered for his work in promoting environmental health through his collaboration with organizations such as the Pan-American Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control, the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Association, the Texas Health Advisory Committee, and the Henry J. Kaiser Foundation. The last project he was involved in was the Rio Bravo Foundation, which aims to improve the health of residents along the border region along with the “Nuestra Gente” project which focused on improving living standards for the colonias along the border.